

## Supervision along the general practice training pipeline in Australia: needs, benefits, and best practice

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### Background

The educational alliance between GP supervisors and learners is the foundation of high-quality training, ensuring the sustainability of a safe and effective general practice workforce. While the supervision roles pertaining to GP registrars are well understood, less is known about how supervisors perceive their role in relation to medical students and prevocational doctors on community placements. The aim of this study was to explore the perceptions and experiences of the supervision role, and unmet needs, along the Australian general practice training pipeline.

### Method

Invitations to participate in the General Practice Supervision Australia (GPSA) online national survey “ENGAGE 2025 - Stronger together: your voice, our mission” were emailed to GPSA members and advertised in social media, eNews, and on GPSA’s online community platform. Consenting respondents anonymously completed questions about their socio-demographics and supervision experience, their beliefs about roles of supervisors towards medical student and prevocational medical doctors on GP placement, their supervision resource needs, and the perceived benefits of prevocational supervision.

### Results

Data collection is scheduled for 1-31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. On closure of the survey, descriptive analyses will be used to explore the socio-demographic and professional characteristics of the sample. Research questions that will be used to guide data analyses include:

1. What are perceived and performed roles in the supervision of medical students and prevocational medical doctors on GP placement?
2. What resources do supervisors want available for supervision of medical students and prevocational medical doctors? Do these differ across levels of supervision experience?
3. What are the perceived benefits of prevocational supervision? Are these consistent across different practice regions?

### Discussion

Understanding the perspectives of those involved (or potentially involved) in supervising medical students and prevocational doctors will help strengthen high quality training in general practice and bolster a sustainable and effective general practice workforce.

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